

CITY COUNCIL

James P. Spering, Mayor
Pedro "Pete" M. Sanchez, Mayor Pro-Tem
Jane Day
Michael A. Segala
Sharon Ventura



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

First and Third Tuesday
Every Month

CITY OF SUISUN CITY

November 2, 2004

701 Civic Center Blvd.
Suisun City, California 94585

Incorporated October 9, 1868

Peter B. Foor
Presiding Judge
Superior Court
C/o Superior Court Executive Office/Clerk of the Court
600 Union Avenue
Fairfield, California 94533

Re: Response to Annual Grand Jury Report

Honorable Judge Foor:

This is in response to 2003-2004 Grand Jury Final Report. Below are the sections in which Suisun City is an interested party where there findings and recommendations that directly address Suisun City.

The page numbers reflect the page numbers in the bound version of the Final Report.

City and County Budget Review (p.1-10)

Recommendation #1 The Suisun City City Council should adopt an ordinance that establishes the reserve. Any change to such ordinance would require public notice which advises the citizenry of the community. As set forth in State Government Code sections 53900-53901, the budget must be adopted and submitted to the County Auditor no later than 60 days beyond the beginning of the budget period.

Response:

The City respectfully disagrees with the recommendation regarding setting reserve levels by ordinance. The level of reserves is only one aspect of the decisions the City Council needs to make during the Budget process and is more appropriately handled by resolution at the same time as the other budgetary decisions.

The City will work towards an earlier adoption of the Annual Budget.

DEPARTMENTS: AREA CODE (707)

ADMINISTRATION 421-7300 ■ PLANNING 421-7335 ■ BUILDING 421-7310 ■ FINANCE 421-7320
FIRE 425-9133 ■ RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES 421-7200 ■ POLICE 421-7373 ■ PUBLIC WORKS 421-7340
REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY 421-7309 FAX 421-7366

Recommendation #2

If the Vehicle License Fee is reduced or eliminated, Suisun City faces grave consequences. Therefore, the City must develop future multi-year budget forecasts that consider all revenues that are subject to state reduction and develop reserves and spending plans that will provide future stability.

Response:

The City concurs with the desirability of creating multi-year budget forecasts, however, the possibility each year of massive state take-aways makes such forecasts subject to wide variation. Suisun City has built up reserves to handle some of the uncertainty, however, the long term solution to this problem is at the state level, such as the constitutional amendment on this November's ballot that would decrease the state's ability to take local government revenues.

Recommendation # 3

The Grand Jury recommends that a multi-year financial plan be prepared based on developing facts, statistics and trends. The plan should be continuously updated as new information becomes available.

Response:

The City will continue to improve its long-term forecasts.

Recommendation #4

It is a good practice to review the interest rate on the loans and bonds and the City should continue to explore all possibilities in reducing expenses.

Response:

We concur and will continue to do so

Recommendation # 5

Although reduction of staff is necessary to meet budget shortfalls, each position should be carefully examined as to its contribution to City services.

Response:

We concur and will continue to do so

City of Suisun City – Lawler Ranch Park (p.88-89)

Recommendation #1 The City of Suisun City should carefully examine their project priorities prior to making public announcements.

Response:

Timelines for public projects are always subject to change for a variety of reasons. One major change on this project was to align the size of the park to the maintenance funds available to pay

for maintain the park. The City is modifying its capital improvement process to plan better when projects can be accomplished given funding sources and staff.

Recommendation #2

The Mayor and City Council must assure that responses to the Grand Jury are made in accordance with California Law.

Response:

The City will endeavor to be more timely in its responses.

Recommendation #3

The City of Suisun City advise Lawler Ranch residents of public meetings and progress of the project, and provide in a timely manner agendas that relate to Lawler Ranch Park to the Grand Jury

Response:

City staff and the Park architect organized two community workshops for the planning of the park, one of which was attended by over 65 people, and conducted interviews with community members. There were also noticed meetings for the Planning Commission and City Council on the park plan. These meetings were noticed to Lawler Ranch residents as well as the Grand Jury. The first phase of the Park plan has been approved and the contract for completing the construction drawings is scheduled to be considered at the November Council meeting. Construction is currently scheduled for Summer 2005.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven W. Baker', followed by a long horizontal flourish line.

Steven W. Baker
City Manager